

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are canceled in place of new claims 7-9, which are the claims remaining in this application. No claim was previously allowed.

New Claim 7 is drafted to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In particular, wording relating to "box shape" no longer is in any claim. Furthermore, Claim 7 defines an airbag with a specific point where the lower bag portion (4) has a lower rear surface (4c) which extends rearwardly on the upper rear surface to push in generally against an abdomen (H1) of the vehicle occupant (H).

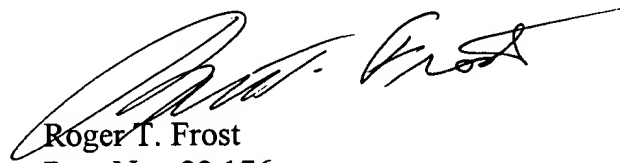
Furthermore, the applicant submits that new Claim 7 defines applicably over JP9-99795 and Krickl (5,454,594), the art previously applied against Claims 1-6. As previously pointed out, e.g., in the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the Second Response, JP '795 discloses an airbag wherein a middle portion of the rear face projects toward the occupant. However, in that reference the entire rear face projects toward the occupant, contrary to the apparatus defined in Claim 7. In particular, neither reference, alone or in the combination proposed by the rejection, teaches or suggests an airbag with the above-discussed features of Claim 7, namely, including a lower bag portion having a lower rear surface which extends rearwardly of the upper rear surface to cushion generally against an abdomen of the vehicle occupant. For that reason, the applicant respectfully submits that the combination of apparatus combined in new Claim 7 defines patentably over the art of record.

New dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above. Furthermore, neither JP '795 nor Krickl teaches the claimed combinations including the two lower joining lines having arc shaped portions continuously

integrated therein, or where each of the two lower joining lines have a plurality of arc shaped portions in which each adjacent arc shaped portions have different radii and join continuously with each other. Those structure elements are found only in the applicant's disclosure and claims, but not in the applied art. For those additional reasons, new Claims 8 and 9 define over that art.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the applicant solicits a notice to that affect.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger T. Frost
Reg. No. 22,176

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1100 Peachtree Street
Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
(404) 815-6500
Our Docket: 44471-262265